

Report of Medical Officer of Health for 1910.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council
of Turton.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting to you my 30th Annual Report on the health and sanitary condition of the Urban District of Turton, together with a summary of the sanitary work performed during the year 1910.

The various statistical items are computed at a rate per 1000 upon an estimated population at the middle period of the year of 12,860.

The total number of births during the year was 246, males 123 and females 123, or an equivalent rate of 19.1. The rate for the County during the year 1909 was 23.57, and for England and Wales 25.6. The rate in your district for the year 1909 was 19.2, so that for the year 1910 there is a fractional decrease, and a decrease of 1.0 upon the mean of the previous ten years. During these years the births have remained almost stationary as to number and rate, only very slight yearly variations being exhibited.

Subjoined is an analytical table of births in the four principal divisions of your district.

Births.	Population.		1910.			1909.			Rate.				
	1910.	1909.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	1910.	1909.			
Turton.....	7,041	7,013	...	67	68	135	...	85	63	148	...	19'1	21.5
Bradshaw....	2,627	2,607	...	29	26	55	...	15	21	36	...	20'9	13.8
Edgworth....	2,320	2,310	...	18	20	38	...	20	28	48	...	16'3	20.7
Belmont.....	872	870	...	9	9	18	...	8	7	15	...	20'6	17.2
Total....	12,860	12,800		123	123	246		128	119	247		19'1	19'2

There were five illegitimate births.

The total number of deaths during the year was 141; males 71, females 70. The annual rate is equal to 10·9, almost equal with the rate for the previous year, and 1·5 lower than the mean of the past 10 years. The County rate for the year 1909 was 13·96, and for England and Wales 14·5, so that your District continues to maintain a very favourable position in respect of mortality.

The subjoined table shows the distribution of deaths and the rates in the four principal divisions of your District, and gives the statistics relative to each, affording an easy comparison of the past with the previous year.

Deaths.	Population.		1910.			1909.			Rate.	
	1910.	1909.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	1910.	1909.
Turton	7,041	7,013	36	45	81	35	35	70	11·5	10·9
Bradshaw	2,627	2,607	21	16	37	11	13	24	14·0	9·2
Edgworth	2,320	2,310	8	4	12	16	8	24	5·1	10·1
Belmont	872	870	6	5	11	8	5	13	12·6	14·9
Total.....	12,860	12,800	71	70	141	71	61	131	10·9	10·2

The infantile mortality or the deaths of children under one year in age amounted to the number of 21, the rate being 85·3 per 1,000 births during the year. The seven principal infective diseases caused 3 deaths, or an equivalent rate of 0·23, a decline of one half upon the rate for the previous year. There were 9 deaths from Phthisis, or a rate of 0·69, in comparison with 1909 the number and rate were 4 and 0·31 respectively. Notwithstanding this slight increase which is probably only due to transitory circumstances, the records show a gradually diminishing mortality from this disease in your District during the past ten years. The improved hygienic conditions both domestic and industrial ought certainly to be reflected in a diminution of the number of persons suffering from the disease. Respiratory diseases caused 22 deaths, the rate being equal to 17·1, a slight decrease upon that of the previous year.

In comparison with the year 1909 the infantile mortality for the past year has an increase of 5 in number and the rate is 24·6 higher, although only slightly in excess of the mean of the previous ten years. The rural character of your District, the good sanitary condition of the dwellings and their surroundings, the absence of overcrowding, the non-industrial employment of married women and the instruction in the care of children, which I and others have endeavoured to impart, ought to be reflected in a low infantile

mortality and it is therefore disappointing to find a record so high as 85 per 1,000 in a district in which these favourable conditions for the preservation of child-life are existent. Anxiety is however allayed by an analysis of the causes of infant deaths recorded during the year and which I present in tabular form—Table No. 5 of those appended to this report. This table discloses the fact that 12 out of the 22 deaths were due to premature birth, accidents at birth or disease directly ensuing from birth which in the future will be probably diminished by improvement in the methods and attention the lying-in woman receives as the influences of the Midwives Act become more operative. It is also reassuring to find a complete absence from the record of those diseases which might be reasonably attributed to insanitary conditions, or to neglect, or to carelessness on the part of the custodians of the children.

The Zymotic deaths amounted to only 2·1 per cent. of the total deaths, and the rate is considerably below that for the County and for the whole of England and Wales which during 1909 was 1·06 and 1·12 respectively. The mortality rate of Phthisis and of Respiratory diseases are both satisfactory.

The low general death rate, the relatively low infantile mortality, and the comparatively low death rates from Phthisis, Respiratory and Zymotic diseases are encouraging features of the years record, and as these are the most important factors in estimating the sanitary conditions and status of a district, their favourable character places your district in an excellent position.

I have compiled the following table so that the foregoing items may be presented to you in such form as will enable you to compare any one of the principal divisions of the district with each of the others, as well as the records of the last and the previous year.

1910.	Birth rate.	Death rate.	Zymotic diseases.		Phthisis.		Respiratory diseases		Infant mortality.	
			No.	Rate.	No.	Rate.	No.	Rate.	No.	Rate.
Turton	19·1	11·5	2	0·28	6	9·84	7	0·99	11	81·4
Bradshaw	20·9	14·0	0	0	2	0·79	10	3·95	8	145·4
Edgworth	16·3	5·1	0	0	1	0·43	2	0·86	2	53·6
Belmont	20·6	12·6	1	1·1	0	0	3	3·44	0	0
Whole District	19·1	10·9	3	0·23	9	0·69	22	1·71	21	85·3

1909.	Birth rate.	Death rate.	Zymotic diseases.				Phthisis.				Respiratory diseases		Infant mortality.	
			No.	Rate.	No.	Rate.	No.	Rate.	No.	Rate.	No.	Rate.		
Turton	21·5	10·9	...	1	0·14	...	3	0·42	...	24	1·12	...	9	60·8
Bradshaw	13·8	9·2	...	2	0·76	...	0	0	...	1	1·14	...	1	27·7
Edgworth	20·7	10·3	...	1	0·43	...	1	0·43	...	9	3·87	...	3	62·4
Belmont	17·2	14·9	...	3	3·44	...	0	0	...	1	1·14	...	2	133·3
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Whole District	19·2	10·3		7	0·54		4	0·31		37	2·10		15	60·7

The number of cases of infectious diseases notified was 56, of which 45 were cases of Scarlet Fever. These cases were distributed proportionately in the principal divisions of the district, uniformly over the whole year, but at no time did the disease assume the proportions of an epidemic. The persistence of the disease as well as other infective diseases is mainly due to disregard of the printed instructions delivered at each infected house immediately after receipt of the notification, and to the communication of the non-affected with the affected which is almost invariably permitted in spite of the verbal admonitions of your Sanitary Inspector when paying the usual periodical visits to the infected houses.

The following is an analysis of the cases of infectious diseases in respect of locality, cause, number and mortality.

DIPHTHERIA.—5 cases. No deaths. Three were situated in Darwen Road, Eagley Ward; one was due to an open drain in process of renovation, one of them, a visitor, came to the district from Hadfield Street, Manchester, with the disease upon him in the incubative stage, but the originating cause of the remaining one could not be discovered. The houses and premises were found to be in a good sanitary condition.

One occurred in Bolton Road, Edgworth, the origin of which could not be traced.

One case occurred at Springside Cottages, Belmont Ward. In this case also no local cause of origin could be discovered.

SCARLET FEVER.—45 cases. One death in the Belmont Ward. The cases were distributed as follows:—

Eagley Ward.—9 cases. Queen Street, 2; one through contact at work, the other contracted at a social gathering at the Co-operative Hall, Bolton. Holme Street, one;

traceable to previous case in the locality. Paper Mill Road, one; the origin of which could not be traced. Hough Lane, one; a postman who probably contracted the disease from some letter he had to deliver, no other reasonable solution could be discovered. Darwen Road, 4; two were traceable to previous cases in the neighbourhood, one was contracted at Stourbridge, but the origin of the remaining one was obscure.

Egerton Ward.—6 cases. Darwen Road, 2; one of these was infected from a case in the Eagley Ward, but the origin of the other could not be discovered. Blackburn Road, 4; three of these were in the same house. In this house there was a previous case nine months prior to the appearance of the first of these last cases. The fourth case was in a beerhouse and probably received the infection from some customer.

Bromley Cross Ward.—2 cases in Turton Road, one of which appeared to have been contracted at School, but the origin of the other could not be found.

Bradshaw Ward.—14 cases. Lea Gate Lane, 5; one was due to a previous case in the locality, one was contracted at school, and three were obscure as to originating cause. Bradshaw Brow.—One case, contracted at school. Walsh Fold.—One case. Infection received at Tong Moor Road, Bolton. Bottom'oth'Moor.—7 cases. Six were traced to infection through previous cases in the immediate neighbourhood, and one was traced to contact with a girl from an infected house outside the district.

Edgworth Ward.—9 cases. One of them in Bolton Road acquired the infection in Bolton, and one in Bury Road at Tottington. The other cases in this Ward to the number of seven, occurred at the Fox Hill Farm, Entwistle. This outbreak was due to infection conveyed by a daughter of the farmer who was a domestic servant at the Bull Hill Fever Hospital, Darwen. She had been passing between the two places whilst affected with the disease in the early stage.

To limit the spread of the affection strict isolation was observed and distribution of the milk was stopped with effective results.

The subjoined extract from a letter I wrote to the Medical Officer of Health for Darwen, on January 10th, will perhaps best explain the circumstances responsible for the outbreak.

"Upon investigating the circumstances of an outbreak of Scarlet Fever at the Fox Hill Farm, Entwistle, affecting seven persons, I found the original source of infection was clearly traceable to a daughter of the farmer, Thomas Kipling. Her name is Elizabeth, and she was a domestic servant in the Bull Hill Fever Hospital, prior to the outbreak.

I think it desirable that you should be made acquainted with the details of her statement to me respecting her condition of health from December 18th last.

Came home on December 17th, during the evening, and had headache all next day, returned to the Hospital on Sunday, the 19th, when she informed the Matron her throat was sore. The Matron rubbed her neck and sent her to bed in the afternoon. She got up next day, but still feeling ill she was again sent to bed. On Tuesday, the 21st, a rash appeared on her wrists which she showed to the Matron, who thought it was due to the hot water used in "washing up." Her tongue was white, and she felt sick. She followed her work as usual on Tuesday and Wednesday. Thursday she felt better, but on Friday had a severe backache. On Friday evening, the 24th, she went home but had considerable difficulty in getting there, on account of the severity of the pain in her back. She remained in bed on Christmas day, and on Monday returned to the Hospital to say she was unable to resume her duties. The skin was then coming off her hands, and whilst showing them to a fellow servant the Matron came along, looked at them also, and said they were "peeling," and that she must have had the fever. At the Matron's request she remained at the Hospital all day, so that the Doctor might see her, but as he did not come she returned home during the evening. On Tuesday, Dr. Haworth visited her at home, and told her she had certainly had Scarlet Fever.

In view of the serious reflections on the conduct of the Matron the foregoing statement discloses, and other public questions it raises, I shall, for the present, refrain from making any comment, preferring to await the result of the inquiry which you will doubtless feel it necessary to make."

Belmont Ward.—4 cases, all in one house. The first of these cases was affected through direct contact at Chorley, the rest were in direct sequence.

ENTERIC FEVER.—4 cases, no deaths; one of these cases was

in King Street, Dunscar, and was due to a foul ashpit, one in Mill Street, due to a defective ashpit, and one in Dunscar Lane, the cause of which could not be discovered. The remaining case was in Brookfield Lane, Harwood, in a Bolton resident who was removed to the Horwich Fever Hospital.

ERYSIPELAS.—One case in Bradshaw Brow which was not due to any insanitary conditions in the house or premises.

WHOOING COUGH was prevalent during April and May, in the Eagley Ward. Two deaths were registered, both in children under 5 years in age.

PUERPERAL FEVER.—One case in Darwen Road in the practice of a Medical Practitioner, not attended by a Midwife.

A case of **ANTHRAX** was reported from Crook Fold Farm, Harwood. All the recognised preventive measures were adopted with complete success, no further cases being notified.

The preventive measures against the spread of infective disease were "home isolation," usually very ineffective, the visitation of schools, the fumigation and cleaning of schools, infected houses, wearing apparel and bedding, etc. These, in the absence of stoving apparatus, are the only methods available.

The only isolation arrangement is an agreement with the Ainsworth Smallpox Authority providing two beds in the Hospital for Smallpox.

The whole district is properly sewered. The District Surveyor informs me that the Belmont and Bradshaw Sewage Works are fully efficient and are working satisfactorily, but that the Turton portion of the district served by the Eagley Sewage Works has outgrown the capacity of the Works to effectively deal with the sewage. A scheme for their reconstruction and enlargement which will make them fully effective, and it is anticipated equal to the requirements of the locality for a period of at least 30 years, is now under consideration by your Sanitary Committee.

Since April 1st, the scavenging area has included all portions of the district; Edgworth, Entwistle, Harwood, Quarlton, and Belmont having been added in accordance with the recommendation in my Annual Report for 1908. The scavenging of the included area prior to April, and since then of the whole district has been satisfactorily carried out.

Your Sanitary Committee has exercised a constant supervision over the public water supply during the whole year. Mr. Harcourt Phillips and the Borough Analyst have periodically analysed samples of the water and I have submitted a short report at each monthly meeting of the Sanitary Committee embodying the results of these analyses which have been fully considered by the Committee.

The standard of purity of the water has been fully maintained. The water is now of good quality and free from any dangerous lead-solvent capability.

Some outlying farms and dwelling houses are of necessity compelled to be dependent upon private sources of water supply. These have been under constant supervision; any defective arrangements or contaminating influences have been duly notified to the responsible persons, and the defects have been rectified and any suggested improvements have been effected. In my last Annual Report I had occasion to condemn the water supply of a farm and 29 cottages, all of which were supplied from the same private source. The owners having failed to comply with the statutory notices under your Council's direction, the farm and 23 cottages were supplied from the Bolton Corporation water mains, and the remaining cottages from storage tanks erected near the springs, the water being conveyed in iron pipes to the houses.

The work of your Highways Committee is reflected in the condition of both the main and secondary roads. I constantly travel over most of these roads, and it is pleasing to be able to testify to their uniformly excellent condition. Their maintenance in such good condition is also a testimony to the care and vigilance of your Surveyor.

I am pleased to note the continued conversion of the antiquated and most insanitary system of "ashpit disposal" of excreta to the more sanitary and convenient water carriage methods of various types, any of which, however imperfect, are infinitely better than the objectionable and disease producing ashpit. There were 91 such conversions during the year, and it is very gratifying to observe a disposition on the part of property builders to assist in the extinction of the vile system by the provision of some form of water carriage in the closets of the new houses, as exemplified in the 43 new houses so provided during the year.

The Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, have

been adopted by your Council and the provisions put into operation but as they were adopted only so recently as October last, I am unable to afford any information in the present Report as to the amount of work done. I have made systematic and regular inspections of the District during the year, and I have notified to your Sanitary Inspector any insanitary conditions which came under my observation, who in every case promptly effected their removal or remedy.

The various Workshops were visited and their sanitary condition noted.

There were 28 Workshops and 9 Domestic Workshops on the Register.

All the legal obligations in respect of ventilation and air space were duly observed. Two notices were issued for the removal of sanitary defects and three for limewashing, all of which were attended to. Two drains were repaired, two were trapped and two reconstructed. Two new water closets were provided. With the foregoing exceptions their sanitary condition was good and they were maintained in a clean and satisfactory state.

Your Sanitary Inspector has reported to me as follows:—

SMOKE NUISANCE.—Number of observations, 98. No legal proceedings were necessary.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.—Number on register, Dairies, 103; Cowsheds, 181. Inspections: Dairies, 206; Cowsheds, 362. They had all been properly whitewashed. One new Dairy was provided. Four Dairies were repaired. The floors of 7 Cowsheds were repaired and 10 defective drains were either reconstructed or repaired. Three drains were trapped. Two new liquid manure tanks were constructed. Eight notices to tenants and four to owners were issued relating to various sanitary defects and all were rectified.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.—Number on Register, 10. Inspections, 286. All were in a satisfactory condition. Notices were issued in respect of the following requirements, lime washing, 2; defective drains, 2; removal of offal 1. All the notices were promptly attended to.

BAKE HOUSES.—Number on Register, 10. Inspections, 47. They were all found to be in a satisfactory condition.

Three notices to lime wash, and two for the removal of sanitary defects were issued and duly attended to. Two drains were trapped and one new water closet was constructed.

VANS, TENTS, ETC., USED AS DWELLINGS.—26 visited the district, and were inspected. There are also 6 temporary wood hut dwellings for the use of the workmen employed in the Delph Reservoir construction. The sanitary regulations were in all cases properly observed. There were no cases of infective disease, and no cases of overcrowding.

SCAVENGING.—Privies and Ashpits. In the scavenging area now inclusive of all portions of the district, 4,893 ashpits were cleansed. Regular inspections of the refuse tips were made, and they were found in a satisfactory condition.

I am informed that the Council have been able to acquire convenient "tipping sites," which will be sufficient for the requirements of the district for several years.

Ashpits, &c.

Number found to be defective	....	93
Number repaired, &c.	....	40
New privies erected	....	4
Conversions to slop water carriage system	....	57
Conversions to water closet system....		34
New dry ash houses in place of old, deep and wet ashpits	....	49
New dry ash houses erected....		4
Slop water closets found choked and afterwards repaired	....	36
New privies and ashpits where water carriage is not available....		4
Fresh water closets choked and afterwards repaired	....	6

The following is a summary of the sanitary work performed during the year:—

Number of Inspections	....	2,356
Number of re-inspections	....	2,437

Outstanding notices from previous year	....	30
Notices issued	....	156
Nuisances abated	....	158
Notices in which time limit is unexpired	....	28
Smoke testing of drains	....	340
House drains reconstructed, repaired &c.	....	220
House drains trapped	....	136
Main drains reconstructed, repaired, &c.	....	8
Surface of yards repaired, &c....	....	86
Slopstone pipes disconnected, repaired, &c.	....	102
Ventilating shafts fixed	....	33
Soil pipes repaired	....	6
Downspouts disconnected, repaired, &c.	....	54
New urinals	....	1
Urinals re-erected, repaired, &c....	....	1
Houses fumigated	....	41
Schools fumigated	....	11
Carcases of meat inspected	....	7
Removal of filth	....	15
Abatement of overcrowded houses	....	5
Dirty houses cleansed upon notices served	....	7
Abatement of nuisance from animals or fowls in vicinity of dwellings	....	8

It was necessary to serve only 11 statutory notices during the year, seven of which have been attended to; the work required in the remaining four is being carried out by the Council under the supervision of the Council's Surveyor.

The following is a Schedule of the Tables forwarded to the Local Government Board as appendices to this Report:—

- 1.—Vital statistics of the whole District during the year.
- 2.—Vital statistics of the separate localities.
- 3.—Infectious diseases notified during the year.
- 4.—Cause of, and age at death during the year.
- 5.—Infantile mortality during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,
Yours obediently,

J. ROBINSON, M.D., L.S.Sc., etc.

“Rockfield,” Dunscar,
Nr. Bolton,

Medical Officer of Health.

February 14th, 1911.

